

NIST MEP State Stakeholder Newsletter

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Issue 4, August 2006

MEP Highlights

As MEP prepares to close another fiscal year, we review some of our key activities over the past year.

- **Next Generation MEP:** Development of a strategic plan that focuses on further evolving the nationwide system of resources to innovate and transform manufacturers to compete globally, support greater supply chain integration, and provide access to technology for improved productivity.
- **Partnerships:** MEP strengthened relationships with federal partners, including the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Labor; fostered partnership arrangements with community colleges; and formalized a partnership arrangement with the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- **Client Impacts:** MEP continues to demonstrate the ongoing impact of the program with clients reporting \$1.889 billion in new sales, over \$721 million in cost savings, and \$941 million in increased investment all attributed to MEP services provided in FY2004.
- **MEP 2006 National Conference:** A successfully professional development conference focused on MEP's market-driven mission, and leveraging the collective knowledge and experience of the MEP system. Sessions focused on the future of manufacturing, growing manufacturing sectors, and helping businesses become sustainable were topics of interest to MEP's state stakeholders.

In the October issue of the MEP State Stakeholder Newsletter, MEP will outline plans for key initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year, including a focus on innovation services, new partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels, and expand system skills to meet the future needs of the manufacturing community.

Commerce Department Announces Formation of Measuring Innovation in the 21st Century Economy Advisory Committee; Seeks Members from Business and Academic Communities

The Department of Commerce has announced the establishment of the Measuring Innovation in the 21st Century Economy Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the Secretary on new or improved measures of innovation in the economy in order to explain how innovation occurs in different sectors of the economy, how it is diffused across the economy, and how it impacts economic growth and productivity. The Committee will be charged with recommending new and improved statistics to help policy makers understand the innovation process.

The Committee will consist of not more than fifteen members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and composed of individuals from business and academia. Those from business will be knowledgeable about their industry sector and those from academia will be experts in their academic field.

Applications for Committee membership will be received until the close of business September 29, 2006. Interested individuals are strongly encouraged to send their applications for membership on the Committee by e-mail or facsimile to -- E-mail: anderson@esa.doc.gov, facsimile: 202-482-0432. For those individuals without Internet or facsimile access, applications may be mailed to Economics and Statistics Administration, attn: Measuring Innovation Committee, Room 4855, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

The August 10 FEDERAL REGISTER contains additional information about this Committee. Other contacts regarding the Committee formation are Elizabeth Anderson, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, ESA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230: telephone: 202-482-3727 or Jacque Mason at 202-482-5641.

Manufacturing Job Loss in the Great Lakes Region

A recent report by the Brookings Institution examines trends in manufacturing employment in the Great Lakes region and finds that a disproportionately large share, more than one-third, of recent U.S. job losses occurred in the seven Great Lakes states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The report goes on to highlight that even with these job losses, manufacturing continues to remain a major driver of the national economy as well as the economy of the Great Lakes region. The full report is available at http://www.brookings.edu/metro/mei/20060727_manufacturing.pdf

Updated County Business Patterns Released by the Census Bureau

The Census Bureau has released the *2004 County Business Patterns*. You can determine, county by county, and state by state, zip code by zip code how many manufacturers are doing business, where they are, their sizes, their payrolls, and how many are in each of the NAICS manufacturing industry codes. The Census Bureau gathers this information every year in the *Annual Survey of Manufacturers* and it is the principal source of information about the demographics of manufacturing. The latest information about manufacturers in your state is available at <http://censtats.census.gov/cbpnaic/cbpnaic.shtml>.

Two Recent Reports Offer Insights into Business Incubation Programs

The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) recent publication, *Developing a Business Incubation Program: Insights and Advice for Communities* offers a discussion of issues related to incubator development. NBIA interviewed experts and practitioners about the underlying assumptions, challenges and activities that are essential to the incubator development process. Advice from the experts include: understanding the incubation concept, conducting feasibility studies, business planning for the incubator, fund-raising, and implementation and start-up.

The National Business Incubation Association is a private, nonprofit membership organization based in Athens, Ohio. *Developing a Business Incubation Program* can be purchased from NBIA Publications at <http://www.nbi.org/store>.

The *Handbook for New York State Incubators* provides a discussion on operating models and lists what it considers to be 10 steps critical to incubator success, regardless of mission or focus. The report includes profiles of five nationally recognized incubators to assess best practices used. The programs include the Advanced Technology Development Center in Atlanta, the Austin Technology Incubator, the Center for Emerging Technologies in St. Louis, the University of Central Florida Technology Incubator in Orlando, and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Incubator Program in Troy, N.Y. Each profile highlights metrics such as jobs and revenues and leverage - the amount of financial impact generated compared to the amount of money expended on the incubator and its programs.

The handbook is available at <http://www.nystar.state.ny.us/Assets/pdfs/incubators.pdf>.

MEP Business Intelligence Service Now Available

Do you need more information on markets, industries or general business intelligence? MEP is now offering ad hoc research service to provide you with fast intelligence about manufacturing clients, industries, markets, technologies, innovations, policies, news, and economic analysis. Simply email your request to Kellyann Davis at MEP Business Intelligence Services kellyann.davis@nist.gov and we will put a report together based on your specific needs.

NIST MEP Announces New Deputy Director

Aimee Dobrzeniecki has been selected as the new Deputy Director of MEP. Aimee has a background in manufacturing, has worked in two MEP centers, and has over seven years of experience with NIST MEP. Aimee joined the MEP program in January 1995 first as a project manager with the Chicago Manufacturing Center and then as a manufacturing extension manager with the Manufacturers Resource Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She joined the NIST MEP staff in May 1999. Serving as an Account Manager, the Communication Manager, and the Acting Associate Director for Administration and Finance, she has worked with the MEP centers facilitating

knowledge sharing, supporting centers' improved performance, and ensuring the best return on the federal investment.